COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER



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March 30, 2004

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley

Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION

FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that the Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services' sunset review date be extended to June 30, 2007.

BACKGROUND

The Commission for Public Social Services (CPSS or Commission) was established by the Board pursuant to Chapter 3.56 of the Los Angeles County Code. The most recent sunset renewal was approved by the Board at its August 25, 1998 meeting.

The CPSS was established to consult with and advise the Board and the Director of the Department of Public Social Services (Director) on all matters relating to the provision of public social services. CPSS' functions are as follows:

- Conduct studies on special projects and make recommendations to the Board and the Director on any and all aspects of the management and operation of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) in order to promote the efficient and cost effective delivery of departmental services.
- Conduct public hearings as necessary to determine the attitudes and needs of the public, both recipients and non-recipients, and cooperate with organizations and private citizens to improve public social services.
- Review proposed federal, State and local legislation and regulations for potential impact on the County and make recommendations to the Board and the Director.
- Appoint staff personnel as authorized by the Board and direct staff activities in support of the Commission's objectives.

CPSS has 15 members, consisting of three appointed by each Supervisor. Commission members have experience in the management of large private businesses, civic affairs, or public charities. One of the three members nominated by each Supervisor shall be either a welfare recipient or a representative of a welfare rights organization. As stipulated in Chapter 3.56.060 of the Los Angeles County Code, each member is entitled to receive \$25 a month if they attend at least one meeting that month. During 2002 and 2003, all Commission members voluntarily waived their stipend.

JUSTIFICATION

Implementation of federal welfare reform has led to many changes in State and County public assistance policies and has brought considerable fiscal resources to the County for job development and training, child care, and transportation. CPSS provides a unique citizen's viewpoint to the Board and the Director on the implications of these policies and the most beneficial use of the available resources at the local level.

During this evaluation period, CPSS reviewed and made recommendations on various welfare program reform issues. CPSS' achievements included the following:

- Co-sponsored legislative briefings with the County's Legislative Strategist on County welfare reform principles and provided testimony about the principles at the State Senate hearings.
- As instructed by the Board, established the Committee on Review and Evaluation of CalWORKs (CORE). CORE members meet monthly to discuss various CalWORKs issues.
- Developed CORE's Evaluation Plan for the welfare to work program recommending improvements in the CalWORKs program. CORE's Evaluation Plan was adopted by the Board.
- Communicated with the State legislature and the Governor's office in support of AB 231, the anti-hunger bill.

CPSS' objectives for the next evaluation period are:

- Continue to monitor and evaluate DPSS' implementation of CalWORKs through CORE's work plan.
- Conduct a study on the impact of changes in the Food Stamps program and work with the local Grocers Association to identify potential providers for the Food Stamps program to ensure there is an adequate food supply to serve participants.
- Continue to review and make recommendations on proposed legislation at the County, State, and federal level.

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 Continue implementing its adopted workplan. The workplan strategies call for the commissioners to select individual welfare program specializations to increase organizational effectiveness. It also calls for the Commission to expand external networking, and survey and report stakeholders' opinions on welfare topics.

Please call me if you have any questions.

JTM:DR:RD Attachments

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Office
 Robin A. Guerrero, Chief, Board Operations
 Jim Corbett, Manager, Commission Services
 Frank G. De Balogh, Chair, Commission for Public Social Services
 Lorenza C. Sanchez, Executive Director, Commission for Public Social Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services (CPSS). **CONCUR**

Section 1. Relevancy. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

CPSS consults with and advises the Board and the Director of Public Social Services on all matters relating to the provision of public social services. **RELEVANT**

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

CPSS meets monthly or as needed. For the period January 1, 2000, to December 31, 2003, CPSS held 45 meetings with an average attendance of seven members per meeting. **SATISFACTORY**

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During the evaluation period, CPSS' achievements included the following:

- Co-sponsored legislative briefings with the County's Legislative Strategist on County welfare reform principles and provided testimony about the principles at the State Senate hearings.
- Communicated support for Board positions on various welfare reform issues to the Governor, State legislature, President, and members of Congress.
- Participated in Countywide summits on welfare reform issues with city officials and business leaders.
- Conferred with researchers and experts on policy implications of various welfare programs.

- Communicated with the State legislature and the Governor's office in support of AB 231, the anti-hunger bill.
- As instructed by the Board, CPSS established the Committee on Review and Evaluation of CalWORKs (CORE). CORE members meet monthly to discuss various CalWORKs issues.
- Developed CORE's Evaluation Plan for the welfare to work program recommending improvements to the CalWORKs program. CORE's Evaluation Plan was adopted by the Board.
- Developed a more user friendly CPSS web page for the public to access Commission reports, minutes, and other information about meetings. SIGNIFICANT

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

CPSS' objectives for the next evaluation period are:

- Continue implementing its adopted work plan. The work plan strategies call for the commissioners to select individual welfare program specializations to increase organizational effectiveness. It also calls for CPSS to expand external networking and survey and report stakeholders' opinions on welfare topics.
- Continue to monitor and evaluate DPSS' implementation of CalWORKs through CORE's work plan.
- Conduct a study on the impact of changes in the Food Stamps program and work with the local Grocers Association to identify potential providers for the Food Stamps program to ensure there is an adequate food supply to serve participants.
- Continue to review and make recommendations on proposed legislation at the County, State and federal level.
- Continue to participate on the Joint Dialogue Task Force. <u>RELEVANT</u>

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

CPSS does not have a separate budget. Costs incurred are expended from DPSS' budget. DPSS estimates that it incurs \$140,000 in staffing costs (salaries and

employee benefits) per year and \$6,000 per year in services and supplies to support Commission activities. During 2002 and 2003 all Commission members voluntarily waived their \$25 per month stipend. **WARRANTED.**

Section 7. Recommendation.

EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES TO JUNE 30, 2007.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES ATTENDANCE RECORD

Commissioner	Nominated By	3/31/00	6/30/00	9/30/00	######	3/31/01	6/30/01	9/30/01	######	3/31/02	6/30/02	9/30/02	######	3/31/03	6/30/03	9/30/03	######	Totals	% Attend
Number of Meetings per Quarter>		3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	45	
Carol Ojeda-Kimbrough	1st District	1	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	29	64%
Vibiana Andrade, Esq.	1st District								2	2	2	0	0	2	2	3	0	13	52%
Richard P. Fajardo	1st District	2	2	2	3	0	0											9	53%
Gabriel Andrew Sandoval	1st District								2	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	0	16	64%
Ulis Williams	2nd District		1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	6	14%
Linda Louise Forster	2nd District	1	3	0	1	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	27	60%
Arnold Butler	2nd District	1	1	1	0	0												3	21%
Marcine B. Shaw	2nd District							1	3	2	1	1	2	0	2	2	1	15	54%
Corinne Sanchez, Esq.	3rd District					1	1	2	1	2	2	0	1	2	3	1	2	18	53%
James N. Adler	3rd District	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	40	89%
Leonard Schneiderman, Ph.D.	3rd District	3	2	1	2	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	38	84%
Charles M. House	4th District															0	1	1	20%
Johnnie E. Morgan	4th District	0																0	0%
Peggy Haidl	4th District	2	2	2	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0			14	35%
Marina Sueiro	4th District		3	2	3	1	1	2	3	1	2	1						19	68%
Jerre Davenport	4th District		0	0	3	2	2	2	2	0								11	48%
Jennifer Arballo	4th District													2	1	0	0	3	27%
Helen C. Najar	4th District																1	1	50%
Jack Tzu-Chieh Woo	5th District	1	0	0	0													1	9%
Joe Brown, Ph.D.	5th District															1	2	3	60%
Paul Zee, Ph.D.	5th District						1	1	1	1	1							5	33%
Alfred J. Freitag, Ph.D.	5th District	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	12	27%
Frank Gabriel De Balogh, Ph.D.	5th District	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	41	91%
Totals		20	21	15	20	19	17	24	28	22	23	13	20	22	21	23	17	325	
			•			Average Attendance per Meeting													_